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TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 28, 1954

Delegation meeting at 9:30. The first plenary session was held at eleven a.m. at Lancaster House, with Mr. Eden in the chair. There must have been about a hundred people in the room. Twenty minutes were consumed by the photographers, then Eden proceeded to organize the work of the Conference. He was elected presiding officer for the duration. Mendès made the only long speech, presenting all the points expected.

I liaised with Spaak, de Staercke, and Rothschild and took them for lunch to Bucks. After downing double martinis, a magnum of champagne, and some appetising solids, we made, I thought, conversational progress toward a settlement of Europe's difficulties.

Trotted to the office. Hereafter only one special adviser at a time will attend plenary meetings, so I took a walk, bought socks, pressed my nose against many shop windows, [redacted] then retreated to my fastness on Grosvenor Square.

Attended two debriefing sessions on this afternoon's meeting. The situation is confused.

Took Bob Bowie to Bucks for dinner. We cudgelled our brains in an effort to formulate a plan for securing the election by popular suffrage of an European Assembly, and of keeping alive the idea of unity. The most practicable possibility at the moment would seem to be to subject the membership of the Common Assembly of the Coal and Steel Community to this process.

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